



ANCIENT SKIES

"Come Search With Us!"

Official Logbook of the Ancient Astronaut Society

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IN SEARCH OF THE ULTIMATE PROOF

BY GENE M. PHILLIPS*

"What can be more enthralling than penetration into the secrets of the past, and throwing light upon the history of civilization itself?"

- Colonel Percy H. Fawcett

Immediately after the Fourth World Conference of the Ancient Astronaut Society in late June of this year, Erich von Daniken will leave Rio de Janeiro for Manaus, a modern city of 300,000 people on the Amazon River in Central Brazil. Leaving civilization at Manaus, von Daniken will follow the Rio Negro River northwesterly via helicopter into the upper reaches of the headwaters of the Amazon in the dense jungles near the Venezuelan border. Fuel supply stations have already been established along the intended route.

Von Daniken's destination is AKAHIM - one of the fabled "lost cities" of the Amazon, which has subterranean chambers containing machines, the living dead, and lights that never go out!

Fifty years ago another explorer set out in search of a lost city in the Amazon where he had been told there were remnants of an old civilization, its people now degenerate, but still preserving records of a forgotten past in parchments and engraved metal plates, mummies, and with houses with lights that never went out! Colonel Percy H. Fawcett, a retired British army officer, after many years of travels and explorations in Brazil's Mato Grosso and the wilds of Bolivia, was convinced that there were many "lost cities" in the jungles of Brazil, the ruins of which would prove the existence of an earlier advanced civilization not heretofore known to us.

Initially undertaking the assignment of surveying the area to establish the border between Bolivia and Brazil in 1906, Fawcett spent over ten years travelling throughout the region, by canoe and other water craft, on mule back and primarily on foot. Well educated and extremely articulate, Fawcett kept a detailed account of his travels and experiences. His journals, edited and assembled by his son, Brian, present a fascinating and sometimes gripping, tale of adventure. (1) Writing with such descriptive facility, Fawcett enables the reader to experience his adventures as though he were physically present. For example, Fawcett experienced a terrible thunderstorm one night at Rurrenbaque, Bolivia, but in his own words: "...during the night, quite suddenly, there was thunder and a deluge of rain - rain so heavy that it fell as solid water!"

Colonel Fawcett was a keen observer, and an equally keen narrator. Early in his travels he be-

gan to notice the unmistakable signs of an ancient advanced civilization. Not only did he hear stories of "lost cities" but also he observed that some Indians themselves possessed physical traits not common to the aborigenes of the region. For example, he noted that the Maxubi Indians were not very dark and had a bright, copper color, with a tint of red in their hair. Some even had blue eyes. They had delicate features, with small, well-formed hands and feet, and a gentle, courteous manner. Their morals were beyond reproach. Fawcett concluded that the Maxubis "in every way indicated a fall from a state high in man's development, rather than a people evolving from savagery."

In the appearance and customs of the Tapuya Indians, Fawcett noted that they were either "the degeneration of a superior civilization or the after effects of long domination by a highly civilized power which had been suddenly withdrawn."

Colonel Fawcett commented that nearly all the tribes in contact with the missions in the 16th and 17th Centuries had a tradition of having once been dominated by a "white race expert in the arts of civilization." He stated that all the superior Indian tribes had traditions of a once great civilization to the East.

Fawcett had been told of an Indian chief of the Nafaqua tribe, whose territory lies between the Xingu and Tabatinga Rivers (in the Mato Grosso), who claimed to know of a city with houses "with stars to light them, which never went out." He concluded that the ancients had some secret means of illumination that remains to be rediscovered by the scientists of today - "some method of harnessing forces unknown to us."

Fawcett recognized that the Indian had no concept of distance and often gave the impression that something quite remote was actually relatively near. Therefore, in deciding to search for his "lost city" he expected to travel hundreds of miles northward from the areas he was accustomed to.

Retired from the Army, in 1925 Fawcett decided to make the great search for the lost city where the lights never went out. Accompanied by his older son, John, and one of John's friends, the trio set out on foot from the Mato Grosso, headed northeast towards the Xingu River to find the city that Fawcett was convinced existed. In the Spring of 1925, he corresponded with his son, Brian, and told him of the various sights he had found, including a long, rectangular rock, with three holes and an inscription of fourteen strange characters. Also, a great stone carved in the shape of a mushroom, which to Fawcett's analytical mind was a "mysterious and inexplicable monument."

Fawcett, like von Daniken after him, was perplexed that the scientific community would not take his ideas seriously. He was eager to have a properly organized search carried out to find and explore the lost cities which he was sure existed, but (Continued on next page)

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(Continued from first page)

he lamented: "Unfortunately, I cannot induce scientific men to accept even the supposition that there are traces of an old civilization in Brazil.

"One thing is certain. Between the outer world and the secrets of ancient South America a veil has descended, and the explorer who seeks to penetrate this veil must be prepared to face hardships and dangers that will tax his endurance to the utmost. The chances are that he will not get through, but if he should - if he is lucky enough to run the gauntlet of savages and come out alive - he will be in a position to further our historical knowledge immeasurably.

"The answer to the enigma of Ancient South America - and perhaps of the prehistoric world - may be found when these old cities are located and opened up to scientific research. That the cities exist, I know..."

Fawcett's last letter was written to his son, Brian, on May 29, 1925, while enroute to his lost city. He was never heard from again.

Fifty years later, Erich von Daniken is accepting the challenge made by Fawcett. Undaunted by any fear for his own safety, von Daniken has the compulsiveness of Fawcett and the exact same goal - to find the lost cities and open up their secrets to the world. The only apparent difference between the two explorers is that von Daniken firmly believes that the ancient civilizations are of extraterrestrial origin, while it does not appear that this idea had occurred to Fawcett.

Von Daniken's interest in the Amazon region was inspired by Karl Brugger's account of the underground city of AKAKOR (2), also located in the same region as AKAHIM, which von Daniken hopes to explore. Von Daniken contacted Brugger for more information, only to find that Brugger had never personally visited the site and was not interested in following up the story. Von Daniken then made contact with the man who had supplied information to Brugger, Tatumca, the "Prince of Akakor," Chief of the Indian tribe known as the Mongulala, numbering some 2,000,000 subjects in the extreme northwest region of Brazil.

In a taped interview in the German language, Tatumca has agreed to guide von Daniken to Akahim and show him the underground chambers which contain machines, of an unknown technology, an energy force field to protect the entrances, and an illumination system which is always lighted and is not electrical. Also, Tatumca said that he will show von Daniken the "living dead", which are revered as gods by the Indians.

Tatumca himself is an enigma. His mother was German, hence he learned the language, and he made his way from Akakor, his home village, to Manaus, where he stowed away on a steamer bound for Germany. He became a skilled auto mechanic, and after about ten years returned to Akakor, where he was elected chief.

Tatumca's account was music to von Daniken's ears. Buoyed by the immediate success of his latest book, *Beweise* (Proofs), which has become the number one best seller in Germany, von Daniken hopes to find the ultimate proof of extraterrestrial visitations to Earth - physical evidence of their technology which could not have been produced on Earth. But von Daniken is beset with the same troubles as was Fawcett - to convince the scientific community of the validity of his theories, and, if he does succeed in finding physical evidence to prove his position, how to satisfy the scientists that the evidence is real. Still smarting from the vicious attacks of journalists and writers concerning his account of the gold artifacts and metal engraved plates (library) he saw in a cave in Ecuador (3), von Daniken hopes to induce someone to accompany him on the journey whose word will be accepted by the public and scientific community alike. His first choice was the U.S. Astronaut Neil Armstrong, the first man on the Moon in modern times, but Armstrong politely declined the invitation.

In 1976, Armstrong took part in an expedition to

the Tayos Caves in Ecuador, which was reported in the European press as being designed to prove whether von Daniken's account of the contents of the caves was accurate. At the conclusion of the expedition, the press in Germany, Argentina and England reported that the expedition party had found the caves, exactly as reported by von Daniken, but that there were no artifacts of any kind to be found. The press, of course, branded von Daniken as a "swindler."

Von Daniken doubts that the expedition found its way into the same cave where he saw the metal objects. The Tayos is an extensive system of underground tunnels covering a large geographical area. No one of the expedition asked von Daniken for directions to "his" cave, nor did they contact the man who had originally led von Daniken to the caves. Further, it would have been impossible for them to determine the exact location from von Daniken's book, because the area he outlined is as large as Switzerland. In answer to von Daniken's letter about the expedition, Astronaut Neil Armstrong replied that the joint venture of the British Army and the government of Ecuador was purely a scientific expedition and had no connection with von Daniken's conjectures. In fact, he explained, he had never read von Daniken's books and at the time of the expedition he was totally unaware of any connection of von Daniken with the caves. He stated that he has never made any comments regarding von Daniken's hypothesis and the caves. Armstrong admitted that after the expedition was over he was advised that articles appeared in Germany and Argentina which linked the expedition with von Daniken's theories and which showed pictures of Armstrong supposedly at the very location of "von Daniken's" cave. However, Armstrong said that he had not been consulted by any person of the press.

The parallel between Fawcett's information about the "lost cities" and von Daniken's information about the Tayos Caves, Akakor and Akahim is remarkable. Fawcett heard of "engraved metal plates," "mummies," and "lights that never go out." Tatumca has told von Daniken of "machines," "energy fields," "the living dead," and "lights that never go out." It is entirely conceivable that Fawcett was searching for Akahim, but was never able to pinpoint the exact location.

In a few weeks the veil which clouds our vision of the secrets of the prehistoric world may be pierced, but whether or not Erich von Daniken returns to civilization with the ultimate proof he so desperately seeks, we only hope that he does return.

- (1) *Lost Trails, Lost Cities*, Colonel Percy H. Fawcett. Funk & Wagnalls, New York.
- (2) *The Chronicle of Akakor*, Karl Brugger. Econ Verlag, Dusseldorf.
- (3) *The Gold of the Gods*, Erich von Daniken. Econ Verlag, Dusseldorf.

MEXICO TRIP PLANNED FOR THANKSGIVING WEEK 1977

An eight-day, seven night archaeological expedition to Mexico is planned for Society members from Sunday, November 20, 1977 through Sunday, November 27. Areas to be visited in the Mexico City area are Teotihuacan, with the Pyramid of the Sun, Pyramid of the Moon, Temple of Quetzalcoatl; Tula, with the colossal Toltec stone giants; and Tenayuca.

Leaving Mexico City by air, the group will stop in Villahermosa to explore the unique open air museum of LaVenta, with the giant Olmec stone heads, and the Maya Tabasco Museum, then proceed by bus to Palenque, where the group will spend two full days at the Palenque ruins, featuring the Temple of Inscriptions, site of the now-famous Palenque Slab, and the magnificent palace complex. In Palenque, the group will stay at the brand new Hotel NuTuTun.

A full day of leisure is included in Mexico City at the end of the trip, for shopping, sight-seeing, or visiting the National Museum of Anthropology, one of the world's finest museums.

For a detailed itinerary of this exciting but relaxing trip, contact the Society Headquarters.

BOOK REVIEW:

THE TWELFTH PLANET

BY ZECHARIA SITCHIN

Published by STEIN AND DAY, New York

The somewhat misleading title of Mr. Sitchin's important new book makes for the more intrigue. The casual reader will simply have to see what the book is all about, while the more serious student will be aware that in mythology there is talk of three more planets in our solar system beyond Pluto. However, it is a relief to some of us to learn that Mr. Sitchin postulates only one more heavenly body among our already crowded system. One more planet? Then why the "twelfth"? Because the ancients counted twelve heavenly bodies in our solar system, including the Sun, Earth's own moon, and ten planets.

Sitchin, a biblical scholar and linguist, particularly in the ancient Hebrew, believes that the ancients were aware of another planet of our Sun, unknown to us in modern times, from whence mankind itself came! This planet, called "Marduk," has an unusual, elongated orbit around our Sun, which takes a total of 3,600 years to complete! In other words, every 3,600 years Marduk will be within sighting distance of Earth, then it traverses the Sun, and back again, all the way out - one and one-half light years away!

If Marduk is inhabited by a highly developed civilization, as Mr. Sitchin believes, then he may have solved one of the most formidable problems connected with space travel - distance. How did the extraterrestrials construct a space craft that would enable them to travel one and one-half light years to Earth? Simple. They rode their own planet towards us until they were within striking distance. The rest was easy, as we, ourselves, know today.

NEW BOOKS:

FIRST, MAN. THEN ADAM! By Dr. Irwin Ginsburgh. Published by Simon and Schuster, New York. Dr. Ginsburgh, a physicist and biblical scholar, presents a bold new thesis - that Adam and Eve were from another planet whose spaceship (the Garden of Eden) crash-landed on Earth.

THE NEW ATLANTIS, by Colin Amery. Regency Press, London and New York.

SPEAKERS SELECTED FOR RIO CONFERENCE

Speakers for the Fourth World Conference of the Ancient Astronaut Society to be held June 23-25, 1977 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil will include Erich von Daniken (Switzerland), Dr. Harry O. Ruppe (Germany), Andrew Tomas (USA), Dr. Pasqual Schievella (USA), Gene M. Phillips (USA), Dr. Javier Cabrera (Peru), Prof. Eduardo B. Chaves (Brazil), Prof. Carlos Manes Bandeira (Brazil), George Sassoon (England), Ulrich Dopatka (Switzerland), Siegfried Hermann (Germany), and Dr. Vladimir Avinsky (USSR).

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ON TIME DILATION

In Ancient Skies, 3:6, Dr. Erich von Daniken quoted two episodes from Japanese Nihongi and Old Testament Apocrypha with reference to "time dilation effect."

In my Bengali translation of von Daniken's Return to the Stars, I mentioned the Indian counterpart of those episodes from the Vishnu Purana. Western readers may find it interesting:

King Raibat was the ruler of Kushasthali. His daughter Rebati was exquisitely beautiful and very highly accomplished and talented. The king was worried, he could not find any suitable bridegroom for her on the earth. So he decided to see Lord Brahma and seek his advice. He left for the BrahmaLoka (abode of Brahma) with the daughter. When he reached there, he found Lord Brahma enjoying music of the two famous Gandarva musicians, Haha and Huhu. The king and Rebati sat down there and were happy, fortunate in enjoying the celestial music.

The music over, the king worshipped and kissed the feet of the Lord and told him the purpose of his visit. He suggested the names of some earthly princes and requested him to choose the best from among them.

The Lord listened silently and then smiled and said:

You forget about those princes. Just at this moment there is no trace of the existence of their races there on earth. During the little time you have spent here listening to music, many cycles of four aeons (Satya, Treta, Dwapar and Kali) have passed by on the earth. At present it is Dwapar (third age in the cycle), the age of the 28th Manu there. None of your friends and relations are in existence there now. Everything you knew is a thing of dead dark past on earth. So you are the only person of your time still living. Whatever that might be, go back to the earth and find a groom for your daughter there.

Terror-stricken at this horrible news, the king kissed the feet of Brahma and said with tearful eyes:

If such is the condition of the earth now, how and whom shall I choose for Rebati?

The Lord Brahma said:

Kushasthali, where you ruled in the past is now called Dwaraka. You will find Balaram (the elder brother of Lord Krishna) ruling there now. He is the most suitable husband for your daughter. Go and give your daughter to him.

Thus advised, Raibat came down to the earth and found Kushasthali completely changed. Like the famous Ikshaku race, the Rebat race too was now the thing of the past. Human beings now were shorter, feebler and much less powerful. Finding no other alternative, he respected Brahma's choice and married his Rebati to Balaram.

Hindu conception of the two time-dimensions is like this: One full day and night (24 hours) of Brahma is equal to 8,640,000,000 years on earth. So Brahma's one second is equal to 100,000 earthly years! Ajit Dutt, 11 Tala Park Ave., Calcutta 700 002, INDIA.

Ancient Skies also received a letter from Mrs. S.A. van Niekerk, of Salisbury, Rhodesia, in which she commented on the Time Dilation article and set forth the relationship of the Hindu time concept with Earth years.

SOCIETY'S FANTASTIC JOURNEY TO PERU AND BOLIVIA

Sunday, June 26, 1977 will mark the beginning of a most fantastic journey for members of the Ancient Astronaut Society. The expedition will begin in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, where members from around the world will assemble. One group from the United States will depart Miami on June 25 to Lima, Peru, then to LaPaz, Bolivia, arriving in Santa Cruz on June 26. On the same day, another group, including world-famous author, researcher and traveller Andrew Tomas, will arrive from Rio de Janeiro, after attending the Fourth World Conference of the Ancient Astronaut Society.

After a good night's rest at the new Holiday Inn at Santa Cruz de la Sierra, the group will embark on an all-day journey by bus to the village of Samaipata, then over a treacherous mountain road to reach the seldom-visited site of El Fuerte. This puzzling array of earthworks, called "the fortress" for want of a better description, could have been a launching site for space vehicles, according to Space Engineer Josef F. Blumrich, who visited the site a few months ago.



Site of El Fuerte near Samaipata, Bolivia

In the morning of June 28 the group will fly to LaPaz, Bolivia and then proceed directly to the nearby ruins of Tiahuanaco, considered by many archaeologists to be the oldest ruins in the world. Tiahuanaco, with its famous "Gate of the Sun," was in ruins when the Incas came upon the scene. All day will be spent at this vast site.

Wednesday, June 29, will be a day of travelling, first by car from LaPaz to Copacabana, then by hydrofoil across Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake in the world. Here can be seen reed boats, much the same as those on the Nile River in Africa, and the surrounding mountain scenery will dazzle the eyes of the viewer. The night will be spent in Puno, a Peruvian town on the northern edge of the Lake.

Thursday, another travel day, will begin at 7:30 A.M. for a 10 hour train ride to Cuzco. This is one of the most breathtaking train rides in the world, with rugged mountain scenery believed by many to surpass the panorama of the Swiss and Austrian Alps.

Cuzco, Peru, the Inca capital at the time of the conquest, has a delightful Spanish colonial architecture superimposed on the ancient structures by the Conquistadores and their descendants. Here you can marvel at the engineering feats in stone, attributed to the Incas, but now accepted as pre-dating the Incas by perhaps thousands of years. In one wall is a twelve-sided stone of massive proportions, hewn to fit snugly on all sides against other stones, also carved to fit. The Indians believe that the stone masons used the leaf of a plant, indigenous to the area, which when rubbed on stone left the surface soft and pliable, like clay!

Friday morning will be spent viewing the magnificent architecture of Cuzco, including the main Cathedral, the Inca Temples, and other wondrous buildings, then the group will begin its examination of the nearby ruins of Sacsayhuaman, Kenko, Puca-

Pucara and Tambomachay. Sacsayhuaman, also called a fortress because of its military-like, zig-zag walls and parade grounds, contains some of the most baffling stone works in the entire world. Huge boulders have been hewn out of a quarry on one mountainside, transported down the mountain, across a river, then up the neighboring mountain to the site of the ruins and placed together without mortar in such a fashion that even a knife blade cannot be inserted in the joints. Also attributed to the Incas, nobody knows who built this massive site.

On Saturday, the group will take an all-day tour to the Urubamba valley to visit the ruins of Pisac and Ollantaytambo.

Sunday morning, bright and early, the tour will enjoy a three hour train trip through the Urubamba River valley - destination, Machu Picchu! At the foot of the mountain, the group will change to small buses, which wind their way, back and forth, up the hairpin turns to the ruins at the summit. Here, the members will have the rare opportunity of spending the night at the small hotel at the ruins of Machu Picchu, and have a full 24 hours to enjoy this fairytale site. Rediscovered in modern times in 1911 by the archaeologist and Yale professor, Hiram Bingham, who later became a United States Senator, this site has been dubbed the "Lost City of the Incas." Here also, the group will experience one of the most exhilarating thrills of a lifetime - to witness the sunrise at Machu Picchu!

Monday afternoon will be spent unwinding our way down the mountain and back to Cuzco for the night, where we will probably remember for the first time that the day is the Fourth of July!

Thursday morning the group will fly across the high Andes, a breathtaking sight, to Lima, Peru and civilization. Lima was founded by the Conquistador, Francisco Pizarro, over 400 years ago and is a modern city combining high fashion with traditional Spanish colonialism. For the first time on the trip, the group will have a free afternoon to rest up and to explore this great city.

On Wednesday, the group will drive to the nearby ruins of Pachacamac, then back to Lima to visit the National Archaeological Museum.

Leaving Lima Thursday morning, the group will drive 280 miles to Nazca, stopping off on the way at Ica, to visit the centuries-old ceramics and pottery at the Ica Museum, and also to visit the now-famous carved-stone museum of Dr. Javier Cabrera, one of the principal speakers at the Fourth World Conference in Rio de Janeiro. Dr. Cabrera's museum contains over 11,000 stones of varying sizes, all carved with intricate designs, depicting heart transplants (!), the shape of continents of the world as they supposedly appeared thousands of years ago, prehistoric animals, and other baffling scenes.

Early Friday morning the now-weary travellers will experience the highlight of their expedition - flying over the Plain of Nazca in small planes! Each person (4 to a plane) will enjoy a one and one-half hour, low-level flight over the strange markings on the desert-like area, some depicting animals, birds, insects; others geometrical designs and straight lines extending for miles; and still others looking remarkably like landing strips of an airfield. No one knows who created these designs, or when, or for what reason. NASA metallurgical engineer, Robert Earle, who visited Nazca a few months ago, believes that the area is a giant "road-map," to guide travellers from outer space to various places on the planet Earth!

Friday afternoon will be spent on the long drive back to Lima and the Hotel Sheraton and a welcome rest.

Saturday will be free in Lima until late at night when those returning to the U.S. will depart for Miami.

If you want to be a part of this once-in-a-lifetime FANTASTIC JOURNEY, contact the Society Headquarters office immediately.